

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF ARMY SGT. DENNIS J. FLANAGAN OF INVERNESS, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Dennis J. Flanagan of Inverness, Florida. Sergeant Flanagan was killed by terrorist insurgents while on patrol in Hawijah, Iraq. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sergeant Flanagan was a true American hero.

A 2001 graduate of Lecanto High School, Sergeant Flanagan was an active member of the Junior ROTC, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant his junior year. Within a week following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Flanagan enlisted in the U.S. Army. Serving with the 101st Airborne Division, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Sergeant Flanagan was part of the air assault infantry that invaded Iraq in 2003.

Following his first tour of duty, Sergeant Flanagan re-enlisted this past September for a second tour in Iraq. He was killed January 20th, along with three other U.S. soldiers when an improvised explosive device blew up his Humvee. Only the driver of the Humvee survived the blast.

Sergeant Flanagan was a soldier who firmly believed in the mission in Iraq and in advancing the cause of freedom. As a young boy, Sergeant Flanagan knew that he wanted to be a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces. A soldier who felt we must defend America and fight for freedom, Sergeant Flanagan received glowing recommendations from his superior officers and fellow soldiers. One of the principle reasons that he re-enlisted was to act as a mentor to the newly enlisted soldiers and to help train the Iraqi army recruits.

Speaking of his future as a soldier and a patriot, Sergeant Flanagan once wrote a poem that included the words, "And now, my son, I pray to thee. Never ever forget me; that I died a soldier's death, to keep you free with my last breath." The speaker then passes a torch and says, "Keep it high for liberty." These prophetic words show that Sergeant Flanagan knew the risks associated with serving as a soldier and that he was willing to accept that risk fighting for America and for liberty and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sergeant Flanagan's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not return home. I can offer this pledge, however; that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sergeant Flanagan made serving his country.

TRIBUTE TO RAUL RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Raul Rodriguez

who served as Managing Director of the North American Development Bank (NADBank) since October of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the NADBank, a U.S.-Mexico international institution created under NAFTA and headquartered in San Antonio, works to finance and develop needed environmental infrastructure projects in the border region such as water and wastewater treatment plants.

Under the leadership of Mr. Rodriguez, the North American Development Bank has seen dramatic growth in its portfolio, and in its ability to help communities in the U.S.-Mexico border region improve their quality of life.

Since Mr. Rodriguez took the reigns in 2000, the NADBank has increased the diversity of its programs in order to reach more communities, not only financing water and wastewater projects, but also developing projects in other environmental areas such as water conservation.

Mr. Rodriguez has been instrumental in facilitating a higher level of coordination between the U.S. and Mexico on environmental issues of mutual concern. He is a true friend to the United States and a true advocate of the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Mr. Speaker, San Antonio is proud to have dedicated service from Raul Rodriguez.

CONGRATULATING DR. ERIKA MARTINA NELSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Erika M. Nelson of Providence Village, Texas for receiving the prestigious Fulbright award to study abroad in Austria during the 2005-2006 academic year. Dr. Nelson was honored with this award for her talents in teaching Language and Literature at the University of North Texas.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world by allowing recipients to study, lecture or conduct research in an international exchange program.

Erika was selected on the basis of professional and academic achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in her field.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Erika Martina Nelson on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her school, community and country.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW J. BENYO JR. UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR IN HAZLE TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to An-

drew J. Benyo Jr., a supervisor in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after completing 18 years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Benyo was educated at St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School in the city of Hazleton, Pennsylvania and at St. Bernard's College in Cullman, Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and English.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having served during the Vietnam War at DaNang Air Base in the field of combat support.

During his years of service as an elected official in Hazle Township, Mr. Benyo held fast to a campaign promise to avoid raising property taxes. He was successful in accomplishing numerous construction projects, including Humboldt Fire Station No. 2, Community Park Soccer Fields, Babe Ruth Field, North Park Road and the Municipal Office Complex and Commons Building.

An environmental activist, Mr. Benyo also served on the Council of Governments.

Well known for his compassion and responsiveness to his constituents, he was a driving force in securing a resolution to water problems in the Beaver Brook area of the township.

He was also instrumental in bringing about the connector road between Route 93 and Route 309 in the area of 28th Street in the township.

Mr. Benyo never failed to make himself available, especially during winter months, and, in particular, during the severe winter storms of 1993, 1996 and the ice storm of 2005.

Mr. Benyo enjoys spending time with his wife, Judy, and their children, Karin and Sgt. Andrew J. Benyo 3d, who is serving with the U. S. Army Rangers, and his wife, Christine. He also intends to make time for salmon and deep sea fishing and his other hobbies that include boating, woodworking and cooking.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Benyo for 18 years of devoted service and commitment to his community.

Because of individuals like Mr. Benyo, the quality of life in communities like West Hazleton is enhanced. And, for that, we can all be grateful.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD "TONY" LYONS OF CITRUS COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward "Tony" Lyons of Citrus County, Florida. Tony was recently named the 2005 Florida Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Born in Nicaragua, Tony moved to Floral City, Florida at the age of two. He currently lives with his aunt, who is also his adopted mother, serves in the Florida Army National Guard and works construction in Citrus Hills to help support his family.

As an outstanding student athlete at Citrus High School, Tony led the cross country team, finishing sixth at the state meet and earning multiple awards for his athletic prowess.